

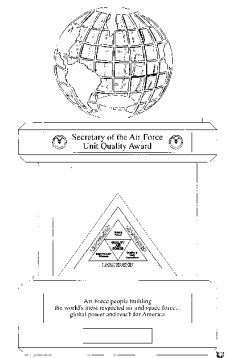


FACT SHEET

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Secretary of the Air Force Unit Quality Award

The Secretary of the Air Force Unit Quality Award is awarded annually to an Air Force organization that has successfully implemented the principles of Quality Air Force for continuous improvement in daily operations. The Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Headquarters Air Force and each major command may nominate one unit for this award.

Evaluation teams, consisting of one Air Force general officer, two Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Examiners and seven Air Force examiners, are trained to assess and score each nomination package. The nominated units are evaluated against the Quality Air Force criteria, which encompasses customer-centered results and the implementation of a true quality culture.

After evaluating the written nomination packages, the teams conduct on-site visits of each unit. The senior judge from each team then participates on a panel that uses the report results in selecting a unit to receive the award. The Secretary of the Air Force makes the final award presentation at a ceremony hosted by the chosen organization.

Throughout the year, the organization honored with this prestigious award can further promote QAF by participating in publicity events, including Air Force, national and regional quality conferences and video productions.

(current as of September 1996)